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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/875,158

wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ have the same meanings as defined above.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Turning first to the certified copy of the priority application, this was filed September 19, 2001, just after the present Action issued. The Examiner is requested to acknowledge receipt and perfection of Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

The only rejection posed is an art rejection: claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Mookherjee et al. ('098) - Mookherjee herein.

The relationship between claims 1 and 4 of the present application and Mookherjee is set forth in the attached sheets headed at the top (First Sheet) "Takasago's Claim 1" and (Second Sheet) "Takasago's Claim 4".

Applicants amend claim 1 so as to exclude the Mookherjee compound of formula (1a').

Applicants amend claim 4 in a similar fashion but permit claim 4 to be directed to obtaining a mixture of the compounds of formulae (1b), (1c) and (1a').

Thus, the claims are amended so as to exclude the possibility of obtaining only Mookherjee compound (1a').

The essential difference between the present invention and Mookherjee is as follows. The present invention is directed to obtaining compounds (1b) and (1c) as main products by relocation of the double bond. In distinction, Mookherjee only relates to a process for producing the compound of formula (1a') in which the substituent on the cyclohexane ring yields a stable

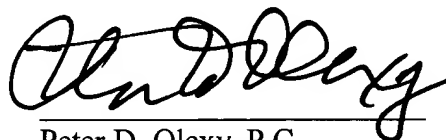
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trans-type compound. Mookherjee does not involve any relocation of a double bond as in the present invention.

The claims are amended to exclude the possibility of obtaining compound (1a') in the pure form which might be viewed as similar to Mookherjee. However, processes for producing a mixture containing the isomer without isolating are permitted to remain, i.e., the latter half of claim 4 and all of claim 5 are permitted to remain. Thus, the claims are amended to exclude the obtaining of the pure (1a') compound.

Withdrawal of the rejection over Mookherjee is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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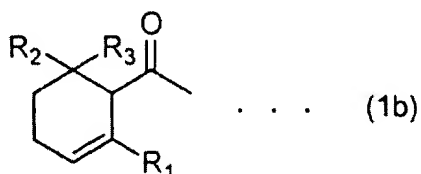
Date: November 16, 2001

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

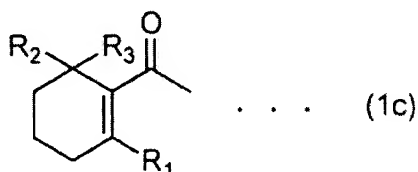
IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

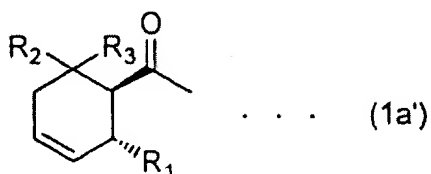
1. (Amended) A process for producing a 2-cyclohexenyl methyl ketone represented by the following formula (1b):



wherein, R₁, R₂ and R₃ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and at least two of R₁, R₂ and R₃ represent a methyl group, or a 1-cyclohexenyl methyl ketone represented by the following formula (1c):

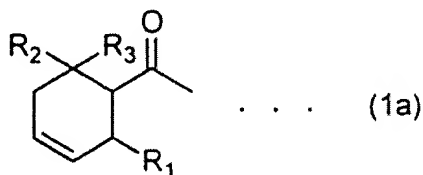


wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ have the same meanings as defined above, [a trans-3-cyclohexenyl methyl ketone represented by the following formula (1a'):



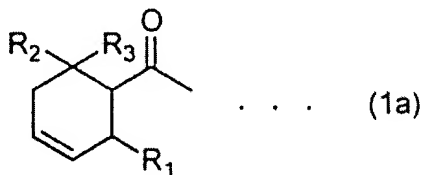
wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 have the same meanings as defined above,] or a mixture of the cyclohexenyl methyl ketones of the formulas (1b) and (1c), which comprises

isomerizing, in the presence of a catalyst, a 3-cyclohexenyl methyl ketone represented by the following formula (1a):

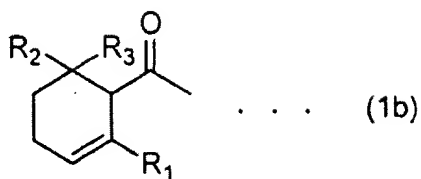


wherein, R_1 , R_2 and R_3 have the same meanings as defined above, and
optionally distilling the mixture.

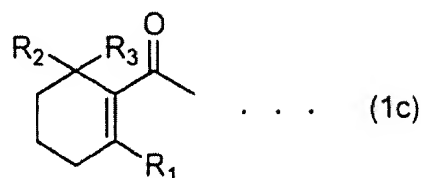
4. (Amended) A process of isomerizing, in the presence of a catalyst, a 3-cyclohexenyl methyl ketone represented by the following formula (1a):



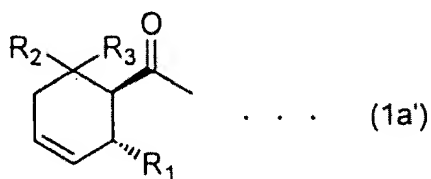
wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and at least two of R_1 , R_2 and R_3 represent a methyl group, into a 2-cyclohexenyl methyl ketone represented by the following formula (1b):



wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ have the same meanings as defined above, or a 1-cyclohexenyl methyl ketone represented by the following formula (1c):

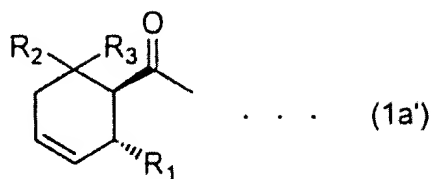


wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ have the same meanings as defined above, [a trans 3-cyclohexenyl methyl ketone of formula (1a'):



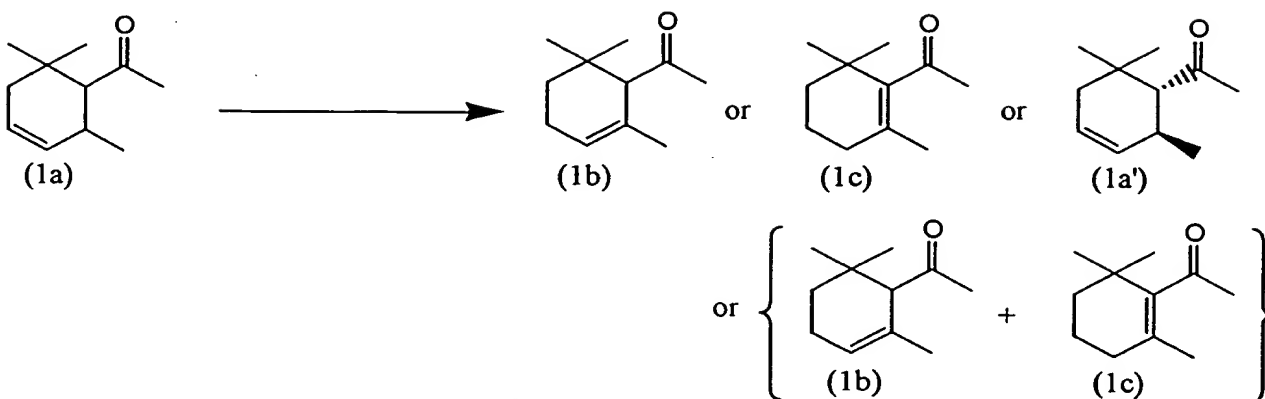
wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ have the same meanings as defined above,] or a mixture of the cyclohexenyl methyl ketones of the formulas (1b) and (1c) and (1a'), wherein the cyclohexenyl methyl ketone of formula (1a') is the following a trans 3-cyclohexenyl methyl ketone of formula (1a'):

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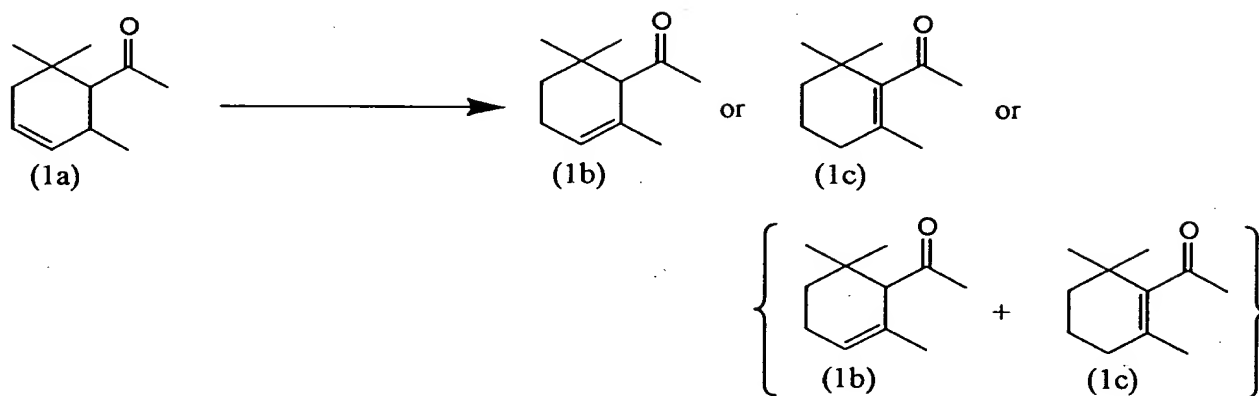


wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ have the same meanings as defined above.

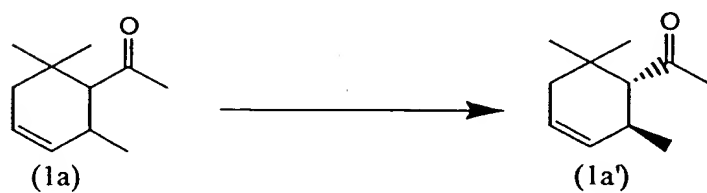
Takasago's claim 1



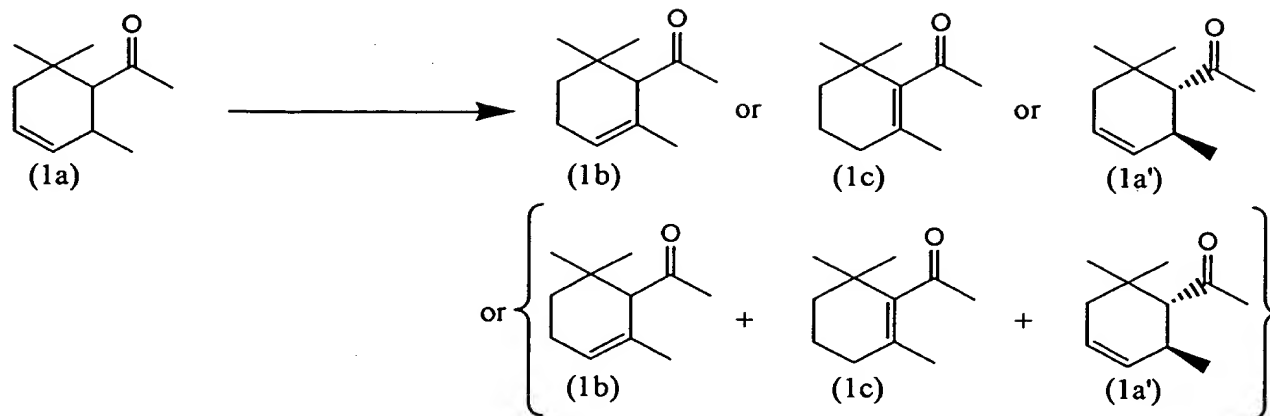
Amendment to Takasago's claim 1



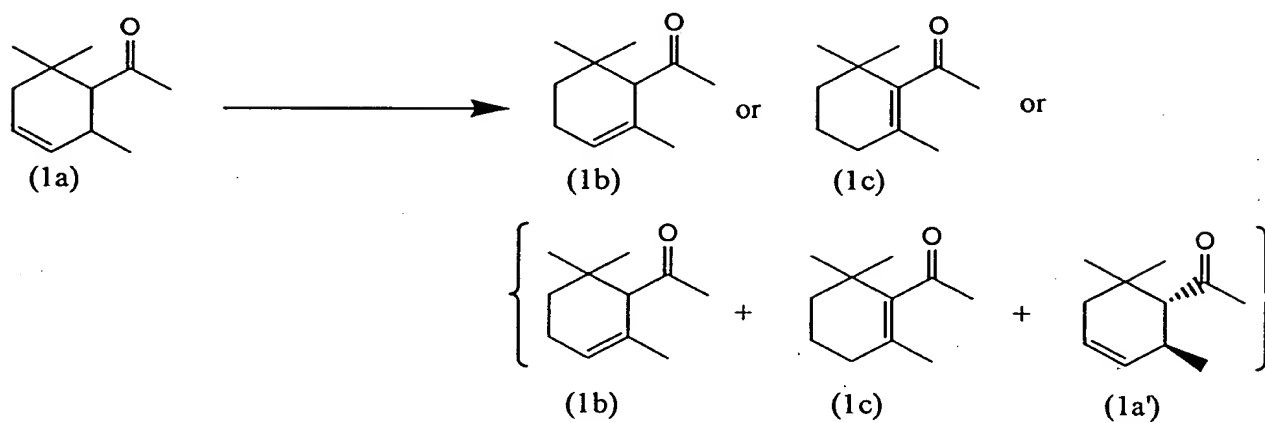
Mookherjee's Claim



Takasago's claim 4



Amendment to Takasago's claim 4



Mookherjee's Claim

